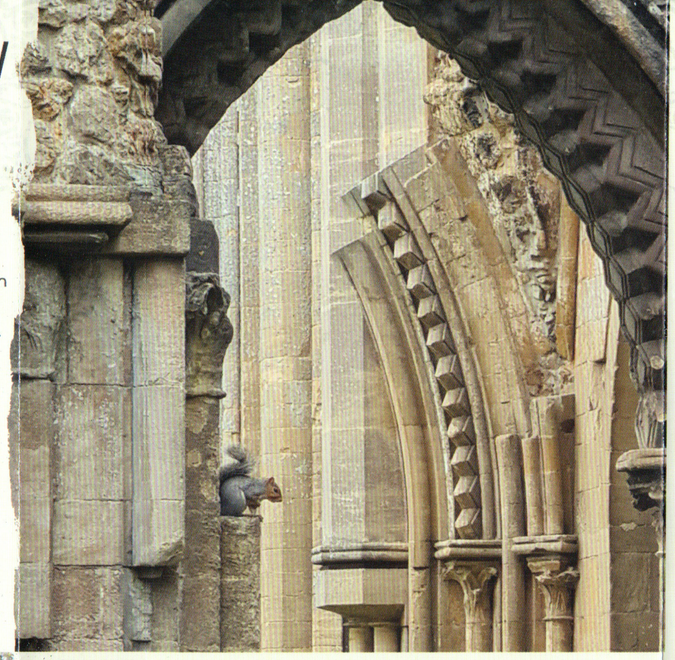
Welcome to Glastonbury Abbey

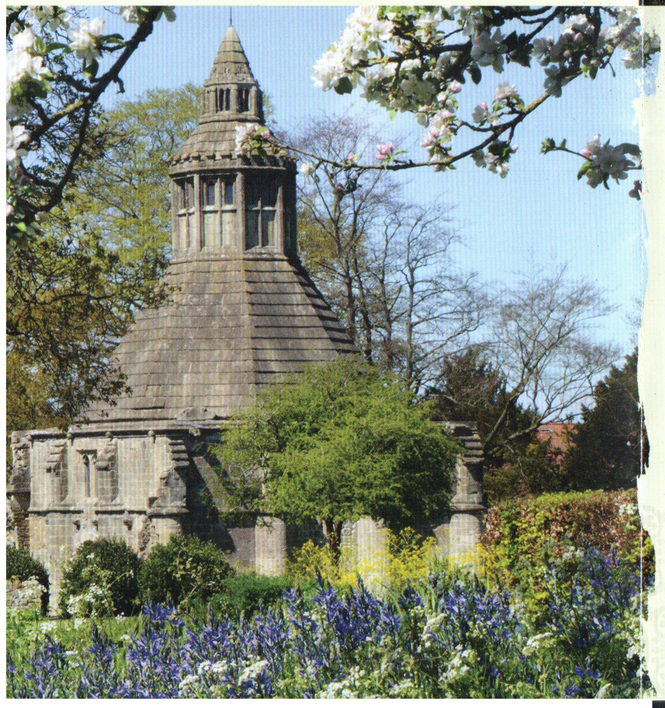
Glastonbury Abbey has legendary status as the earliest Christian monastic site in Britain, and by the 12th century it was the wealthiest abbey in England. One of its great abbots, St Dunstan devised the coronation ceremony still used today, including that for King Charles III.

The abbey also played a major part in the development of Arthurian legend; as you explore the ruins, you could be following in the footsteps of the legendary King Arthur, whose grave monks in the 12th century claimed to have discovered. Make sure to also visit the Holy Thorn, believed to be descended from the staff of Joseph of Arimathea.

In 1250 Glastonbury Abbey featured in Matthew Paris' map of the world and today welcomes visitors from around the globe to discover the history, heritage, myths, legends and spirituality of this nationally important ancient monument in the heart of Somerset.

On your visit to the abbey, meet characters from its historic past who give colourful insights with free tours of the ruins; you can also enjoy the new Glastonbury Abbey Yard Gift Shop & Café, and experience re-enactment, music and more throughout our active events calendar.





Spend a Full Day at the Abbey

Your ticket is valid for the entire day of admission. Please show your receipt upon re-entry. Last re-entry is 45 minutes before closing.

Discover More with a Guide Book

Glastonbury Abbey Guide Books are available to purchase at Admissions and the Gift Shop, where you can also buy a Tree Guide.

Visit our seasonal Garden Café

Serving a variety of teas and coffees, cold drinks, snacks and ice cream. Vegan & Gluten Free options available.

Become a Glastonbury Abbey Member

Enjoy year-round access to one of the most iconic medieval sites in Europe plus a host of other benefits for less than £1 a week.
Learn more:

GLASTONBURY ABBEY

For more information
www.glastonburyabbey.com

+44 (0)1458 832267
@GlastonburyAbbey
GlastonburyAbbeySomerset

Glastonbury Abbey
The Abbey Gatehouse
Magdalene Street
Glastonbury, Somerset
BA6 9EL, UK

Open 364 days a year*
Please check the abbey website or social media for up-to-date opening times.
*closed Christmas Day

Glastonbury Abbey is a registered charity, number: 1129263 and a limited company, number: 6873912.

VisitEngland VISITOR ATTRACTION · BRISTOL BATH & SOMERSET Gold · ACCREDITED MUSEUM · SOMERSET BUSINESS AWARDS 2024 FINALIST · WE'VE BEEN SHORTLISTED FOR A NOEA AWARD

GLASTONBURY ABBEY

VISITOR MAP

2 Abbot's Kitchen

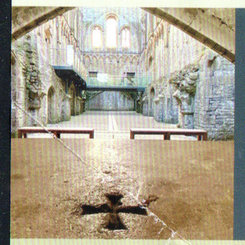
Generally accepted as the finest medieval kitchen in England. The surviving structure dates back to the 14th century. Abbey Guide Book page 19

Abbot's Kitchen Demonstrations

Watch a demonstration from one of our Living History guides, or explore the Abbot's Kitchen's variety of medieval recipe cards – take a photo to try them out at home.

3 Lady Chapel

One of the most impressive late 12th-century monuments in Britain, with its walls surviving to full height. The Lady Chapel was dedicated to 'Our Lady', the Virgin Mary. Abbey Guide Book page 4



Crypt & Well

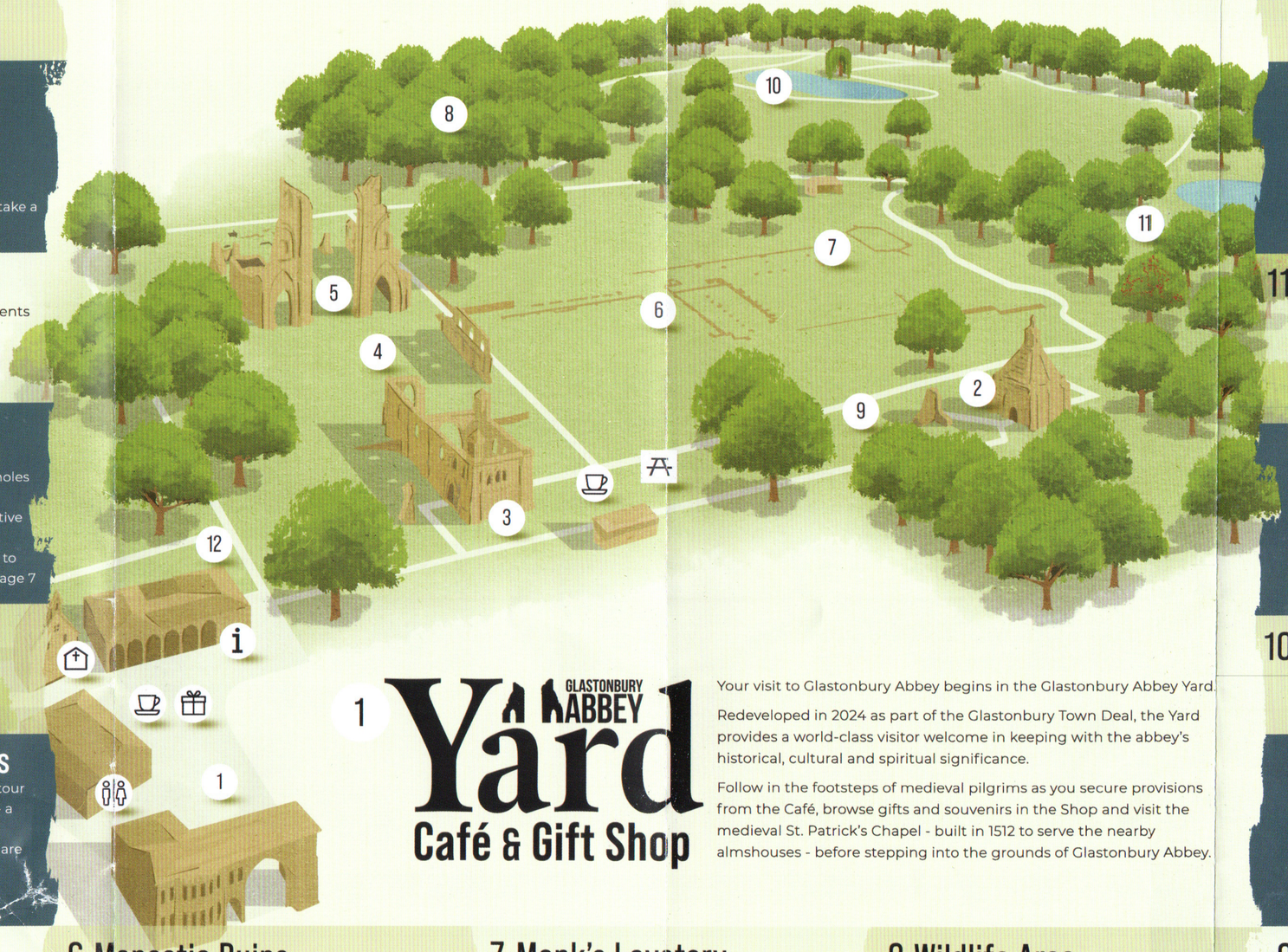
Step beneath the Lady Chapel to explore the crypt, looking out for holes within the crypt's vault where pilgrims may once have placed votive offerings. From here, follow the historic pilgrim's passage through to the holy well. Abbey Guide Book page 7

4 Great Church

Once the second longest church in medieval Britain. The Great Church's iconic crossing piers stand at only half their original height. Abbey Guide Book page 8

Living History Tours

Take a free, guided Living History tour with one of our costumed guides - a great way to discover the abbey's wealth of history. Daily tour times are provided at Admissions. Tours are subject to availability.



1 Glastonbury Abbey Yard Café & Gift Shop

Your visit to Glastonbury Abbey begins in the Glastonbury Abbey Yard.

Redeveloped in 2024 as part of the Glastonbury Town Deal, the Yard provides a world-class visitor welcome in keeping with the abbey's historical, cultural and spiritual significance.

Follow in the footsteps of medieval pilgrims as you secure provisions from the Café, browse gifts and souvenirs in the Shop and visit the medieval St. Patrick's Chapel - built in 1512 to serve the nearby almshouses - before stepping into the grounds of Glastonbury Abbey.

5 Site of Arthur's Tomb

The legendary resting place of King Arthur, whose body monks claimed to have discovered at Glastonbury in 1191. Abbey Guide Book page 12

6 Monastic Ruins

The ruins of a magnificent complex of monastic buildings, incorporating the cloister, chapter house, dormitory and refectory. Abbey Guide Book page 14

7 Monk's Lavatory

The reredorter, or monk's lavatory, would have been connected to the dormitory and was placed over a stream. Abbey Guide Book page 16

8 Wildlife Area

Home to nearly 400 different species. A sett in the centre of the Wildlife Area is home to the abbey's long-term resident badger colony. Abbey Guide Book page 26

9 Holy Thorn

Glastonbury's famous Holy Thorn is connected with the legend of Joseph of Arimathea and the arrival of Christianity in Britain. It flowers twice a year – Easter and again each Christmas. Abbey Guide Book page 24, Tree Guide page 26

12 Museum

Home to fascinating items from the abbey's collections and a scale model of the abbey as it would have looked in 1539. Abbey Guide Book page 24

Badger Sett

Pay close attention for signs of badger activity such as badger fur, footprints and snuffle holes. Spend a quiet moment on the benches to see a variety of birds enjoying the wildlife area.

11 Orchard & Fish Pond

The orchard has been in use since 1799. Its apples are harvested annually to produce Glastonbury Abbey Cider. The fish pond supports common carp, rudd, tench and golden orfe. Abbey Guide Book page 27, Tree Guide page 28

Water Wildlife

Stop at the benches under the willow tree to watch waterfowl such as ducks and moorhens or catch a glimpse of fish beneath the surface.

10 Upper Pond

Created in 1998 as a wildlife pond, now home to a variety of plant and animal species. Abbey Guide Book page 28

Medieval Herb Garden

As you browse the gardens, read about how a medieval monastery would have made use of each herb for medicine, cooking and dyeing.